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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/804,349	03/17/2004	Andreas V. Bechtolsheim	CISIO-13161-CONT	9236
24346	7590	11/14/2008		
JAY CHESA VAGE 3833 MIDDLEFIELD PALO ALTO, CA 94303				
EXAMINER				
WONG, WARNER				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2416				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
11/14/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/804,349

Applicant(s)

BECHTOLSHEIM ET AL.

Examiner

WARNER WONG

Art Unit

2416

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 September 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 73-102, 104-119 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 102 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 73-101 and 104-109 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claim 73-74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Merchant (US 6,081,523) in view of Shimizu (US 5,293,378), Bleszynski (US 6,603,768) and Finney (US 5,570,356)

Regarding claim 73, Merchant describes a communication interface having n data lanes (abstract & fig. 1, data lanes 22[0] to 22[n]), said interface sequentially and contiguously transmitting a header including a packet type field describing a payload data type (col. 3, line 39, for transmitting known Ethernet frames, each having a packet type field in the header as depicted in fig. 1, #22 of the instant application), said header distributed sequentially across a plurality of said data lanes (fig. 3A & col. 6, lines 13-16, preamble+start frame delimiter (header) sent on each MII 28i), a variable amount of payload data distributed across said n data lanes (fig. 3A & col. 6, lines 18-24, segmented Ethernet (variable) data streams N0-N3 distributed across the links);

a field check sequence (FCS) computed over said payload data, concatenated to the end of said payload (col. 3, line 39, each known Ethernet frame being transmitted comprises a 4-byte FCS value computed from the payload data & is appended after the

end of the Ethernet payload (see instant application's fig. 1 for the known Ethernet frame breakdown));

said header includes transmitting a START symbol on first said data lane, and the transmission of said payload data is followed by an CRC symbol on at least one said data line (fig. 3A & col. 6, lines 50-55, preamble (header) comprising start frame delimiter (col. 6, lines 13-15), followed by payload data, then a CRC symbol);

said payload data includes transmitting successive data bytes canonically across said n successive data lanes up to data lane m , where $m \leq n$ and $n > 1$ (fig. 1, transmitting successive data across $n = 4$ successive data lanes, 22[0]-22[4] in a unique, equivalent (canonical) representation).

Merchant describe that the CRC field is generated lastly after the preamble and data, but fails to explicitly state: the CRC symbol being an END symbol,

field check sequence computed over the entire said payload data.

Shimizu explicitly describes:

sending an END symbol fig. 2, transmitting End Delimiter ED on said lane 102);

field check sequence (FCS) computed over the entire said payload data (fig. 2, FCS is computed for the entire pre-segmented info payload).

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to describe sending an end symbol as in Shimizu for the invention of Merchant.

The motivation for combining the teachings is that it allow for a separating means for the transmission using such a delimiter (Shimizu, col. 2, lines 6-7).

Merchant fails to describe that the payload data comprises an encapsulated packet having an encapsulated header and encapsulated data, and

said encapsulated header containing information unrelated to said packet header other than said packet type field.

Bleszynski describes packet encapsulations comprising: payload data comprises an encapsulated packet having an encapsulated header and encapsulated data, said encapsulated header containing information unrelated to said packet header other than said packet type field (col. 5, lines 55-65, multi-protocol support engine 10 adds a generic (unrelated) packet header identifying type on top of each packet (encapsulated data & header) as shown in fig. 3).

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to describe the payload data encapsulating a packet having an encapsulated header and data as in Bleszynski for the described payload in Merchant.

The motivation for combining the teachings is that by providing a generic packet header for all protocol types, it improves the multi-protocol processing efficiency (Bleszynski, col. 2, lines 48-49).

Merchant fails to describe that the 4-byte FCS being distributed as bytes across said n data lanes.

Finney describes transmission across multiple serial links where each link accepts selected one of the distributed bytes of the incoming signals (fig. 3 & col. 4, lines 33-41).

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to describe each link of the multiple link transmission accepts a distributed byte for transmission as in Finney for the parallel transmission paths of Merchant.

The motivation for combining the teachings is that it achieves a high bandwidth data transmission with great skew tolerance and employing lower clocking frequencies with less circuitry dissipating lower power (Finney, col. 2, lines 19-23).

Regarding claim 74, Messenger further describes that $n=4$ (fig. 1).

2. Claim 75-76, 78, 80, 82-83 and 86-89 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimizu in view Finney and Bleszynski and Merchant.

Regarding claim 75, Shimizu describes a process for transmitting data on a communications channel having a first, a second, a third, and a fourth data lane (fig. 1, lines 5, 6, 7 & 8), said data comprising a header which includes a start symbol, payload type field and the variable length payload followed by a FCS computed on said header and also said payload (col. 1, lines 19-21, known Ethernet frames being transmitted comprise a preamble (start symbol), payload type field, payload as described by the payload type field, and then a FCS (CRC-16 computed from header & payload) as depicted in fig. 1 of instant application), said process comprising:

a first step of sending a synchronization symbol on all four said data lanes until said variable length payload is ready to be transmitted (fig. 2, sending SYN on all 4 paths/lanes before the transmission frame (sync interval));

a second step of substantially simultaneously sending said header to said first data lane and part of said payload to the remaining three data lanes during a first said clock interval (fig. 2, col. 4, lines 20-26, parallel transmitting the start delimiter SD, and segments a-d in the first frame cycle (first clock interval));

a third step of incrementally transmitting the remainder of said payload data in a sequence of transmission events occurring during a said successive clock interval (fig. 2, incrementally transmitting segment 'e' in the next transmission cycle (successive clock interval)), each said transmission event comprising sending said incremental payload data distributed across in said four data lanes followed by said FCS (fig. 2, sending until last segment 'f' on lane 102 (one lane) then the End Delimiter of Ethernet frame (i.e. FCS));

a fourth step of transmitting said final data accompanied by an END symbol on one said data lane (fig. 2, transmitting End Delimiter ED on said lane 102).

Shimizu fails to explicitly describe that each data lane being 8 bits wide as in applicant fig. 16, intermediate stage 8-bit lanes.

Finney describes a transmitting method when each data lane from the collective set of MUXes 230, 232 & 234 are 8-bits wide (fig. 2 & col. 4, lines 16-19: "wherein a standard Widmer et al. 8-bit/10-bit encoding is performed to provide a data string of 10 encoded bits for each 8-bit byte to serializers 246, 248 & 250").

Shimizu also fails to describe that the process includes a clock for transferring said 8-bits and that the data lane being 8-bits wide.

Finney describes that the process includes a clock for transferring said 8-bits (fig. 4, clock for pacing transmission clock cycles) and that the data lane being 8-bits wide (fig. 3, the line in the byte MUX portion before serialization is byte (8-bit) wide).

Shimizu also fails to explicitly describe:

transmitting said data on successive clock intervals by sequentially placing said data on successive clock intervals by sequentially placing said data on said first, said second, said third and said fourth data lane during a particular said clock interval.

Finney describes:

transmitting said data on successive clock intervals by sequentially placing said data on successive clock intervals by sequentially placing said data on said first, said second, said third and said fourth data lane during a particular said clock interval (fig. 4, data for MUX OUTs (1st – 4th lanes) are sequentially placed on successive clock intervals).

Shimizu fails to describe:

sending until unsent said FCS spanning one, two, or three lanes remains to be transmitted.

Finney suggests that all Ethernet frame byte are distributed and sent, that is, after the Ethernet header and Ethernet payload is distributed across the transmission lines and sent, the remaining Ethernet FCS field is also distributed (spanned) among the transmission lines to be transmitted as well (col. 4, lines 33-41).

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to describe the details to parallel transmission of Messenger to have the 8B/10B encoding with 8-bit data wide data lanes as in Finney.

The motivation for combining the teachings is that it enables a high bandwidth communication protocol for transmission using multiple serial data links (Finney, col. 2, lines 12-14).

Shimizu fails to describe that the payload data comprises an encapsulated packet having an encapsulated header and encapsulated data.

Bleszynski describes packet encapsulations comprising: payload data comprises an encapsulated packet having an encapsulated header and encapsulated data (col. 5, lines 55-65, multi-protocol support engine 10 adds a generic packet header on top of each packet (encapsulated data & header) as shown in fig. 3).

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to describe the payload data encapsulating a packet having an encapsulated header and data as in Bleszynski for the described payload in Shimizu.

The motivation for combining the teachings is that by providing a generic packet header for all protocol types, it improves the multi-protocol processing efficiency (Bleszynski, col. 2, lines 48-49).

Shimizu, Finney and Bleszynski combined fail to explicitly describe:
not sending synchronization symbol again until all after all said variable length payload is transmitted.

Merchant suggests:

not sending synchronization symbol again until after all said variable length payload is transmitted (fig. 3A & col. 2, lines 60-62, preamble used for synchronization is only sent at the start of transmission of segments (payload)).

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to stop sending synchronization symbol until after all variable length payload is transmitted as in Merchant for the parallel transmission scheme of Shimizu, Finney and Bleszynski.

The motivation for combining the teachings is that it enables a reliable reception of each of the data segments without the necessity of error checking on the individual links (col. 2, lines 62-64).

Regarding claim 76, Shimizu further suggests that the no said unsent FCS remains and said END symbol is transmitted on said first data lane (fig. 2, col. 4, lines 26-28, should segment 'f' is transmitted in path 104 in the entire second frame cycle, where 'f' comprises the last portion of the Ethernet frame's payload and FCS, the 'ED' (END symbol) is then transmitted on path 101 (first data lane)).

Regarding claim 78, Shimizu further suggests: unsent FCS is transmitted on said first said data lane and said END symbol is transmitted on said second data lane (fig. 2, segment 'e' may be the last segment comprising part of Ethernet frame's FCS and the ED end delimiter is transmitted on the second data lane).

Regarding claim 80, Shimizu further suggests: unsent FCS is transmitted on first and second said data lanes and said END symbol is transmitted on said third data lane (fig. 2, segment 'e' & 'f' are the last segments comprising part of Ethernet frame's

FCS (unsent FCS), where segment 'f' may span the entire payload of the second data lane in which the ED end delimiter is transmitted on the third data lane).

Regarding claim 82, Shimizu further suggests: unsent FCS is transmitted on said first, second and third said data lanes and said END symbol is transmitted on said fourth data lane (fig. 2, last segments comprising part of Ethernet frame's FCS (unsent FCS) may span the entire payload of lanes 101, 102 & 103 in which the ED end delimiter is transmitted on the fourth data lane).

Regarding claim 83, Shimizu further suggests: unsent FCS is transmitted on first, second and third said data lanes and said END symbol is transmitted on said fourth data lane (fig. 2, last segments comprising part of Ethernet frame's FCS (unsent FCS) may span the entire payload of lanes 101, 102 & 103 in which the ED end delimiter is transmitted on the fourth data lane).

Regarding claim 86, Shimizu and Finney combined describe using a positive edge for data transfer (Finney, fig. 4, rising/positive edge of clock for pacing phases 1-3) using a clock with lower frequencies (col. 2, lines 20-21), but not specifically at 312.5Mhz rate.

However, it is generally considered to be within the ordinary skill in the art to adjust, vary, select or optimize the transmission clock rate or frequency of any system absent a showing of criticality in a particular recited value. The burden of showing criticality is on the Appellant. In re Mason, 87 F.2d 370, 32 USPQ 242 (CCPA 1937); Marconi Wireless Telegraph Co. v. U.S., 320 U.S. 1, 57 USPQ 471 (1943); In re Schneider, 148 F.2d 108, 65 USPQ 129 (CCPA 1945); In re Aller, 220 F.2d 454, 105

USPQ 233 (CCPA 1955); In re Saether, 492 F.2d 849, 181 USPQ 36 (CCPA 1974); In re Antonie, 559 F.2d 618, 195 USPQ 6 (CCPA 1977); In re Boesch, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to specify the transmission clock rate to 312.5Mhz for the claim limitation since it is generally considered to be within the ordinary skill in the art to adjust, vary select or optimize the transmission clock rate/frequencies.

Regarding claim 87, Shimizu and Finney combined describe: each data lane is encoded and serialized into a serial stream of data (Finney, fig. 2, data stream encoded at 236, 238 & 240 and serialized at 246, 248 & 250 for transmission).

Regarding claim 88, Shimizu, Finney combined describe: said encoder is an 8B/10B encoder (fig. 2 236,238,240 & col. 4, line 17).

Regarding claim 89, Shimizu further suggests that the serial stream of data is transmitted as a differential electrical signal (col. 1, lines 9-11, telephone line or twisted-pair cable as the transmission medium).

3. Claim 77, 79 and 81 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimizu in view of Finney and Bleszynski as applied to claim 75 above, and further in view of Merchant.

Regarding claim 77, Shimizu fails to describe: no said unsent FCS remains and said END symbol is transmitted on said first data lane accompanied by said preamble transmitted on said second, said third and said fourth data lanes.

Merchant describes that last data segment (final data) ends at the fourth/last data lane MII 28[3], the CRC (END) symbol is transmitted on the first data lane MII 28[0], and the preamble is also transmitted on the second, third and fourth data lane (fig. 3A).

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to describe such transmission specifics for the preamble, final data and the END symbol as in Merchant for the combined parallel transmission of Shimizu and Finney.

The motivation for combining the teachings is that such transmission configuration increases the effective transmission data rate (Merchant, col. 2, lines 2-6).

Regarding claim 79, Shimizu further suggests: final data comprises first said data lane and said END symbol is transmitted on said second data lane accompanied by said preamble transmitted on said third and said fourth data lanes (fig. 2, segment 'e' may be the last segment in which the ED end delimiter is transmitted on the second data lane).

Shimizu fails to describe that the preamble is transmitted on said third & fourth data lanes.

Merchant describes that the preamble is transmitted on said third & fourth data lanes.

Regarding claim 81, Shimizu describes: unsent FCS is transmitted on said first and said second data lanes and said END symbol is transmitted on said third data lane (fig. 2, segment 'e' & 'f' are the last segments comprising part of Ethernet frame's FCS

(unsent FCS), where segment 'f' may span the entire payload of the second data lane in which the ED end delimiter is transmitted on the third data lane).

Shimizu fails to describe: the preamble transmitted on said fourth data lane.

Merchant describes that the preamble is transmitted on said fourth data lane.
third data lane).

4. Claims 84-85 and 90 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimizu in view of Finney and Bleszynski as applied to claim 75 above, and further in view of Kimmitt (US Kimmitt US 6,618,395).

Regarding claim 84, Shimizu and Finney combined describe transmission using a clock with lower frequencies (Finney fig. 6 & col. 2, lines 20-21), but not specifically at 312.5Mhz rate.

Kimmitt describes a plural channel transmission method where each path uses 156.25Mhz.

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to describe using a 156.25Mhz clock rate as in Kimmitt for the combined transmission of Shimizu and Finney.

The motivation for combining the teachings is that allows for a reliable telecommunications without employing wide parallel buses (Kimmitt, col. 2, lines 4-9).

Regarding claim 85, Shimizu and Finney combined describe using a positive edge (Finney, fig. 4, rising/positive edge of clock for pacing phases 1-3) and a negative edge (Finney, fig. 4, falling/negative edge of phase 1 for gating data to register),

clocking at lower frequencies (Finney fig. 6 & col. 2, lines 20-21), but fails to describe using a clock rate of 156.25Mhz.

Kimmitt describes using a clock rate of 156.25Mhz for transmission (col. 7, lines 59-65).

Regarding claim 90, Shimizu, Finney and Bleszynski combined fail to describe data transmission as an optical signal.

Kimmitt describe that the multi-channel data transmission using an optical signal (col. 4, lines 22-23).

5. Claim 91 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimizu in view of Finney and Merchant.

Regarding claim 91, Shimizu describes a transmitter (fig. 1, transmitter 16) for sending data comprising a header followed by a variable length payload (col. 1, line 20, can be for ethernet frame comprising header & variable payload) , said data being substantially simultaneously transmitted on a first data lane, a second data lane, a third data lane and a fourth data lane in a succession of time sequences in the following manner:

sending a preamble on said first, said second, said third, and said fourth data lanes until said variable length data is ready to transmit (fig. 2, SYN (preamble) is sent on paths 101-104 before packet), and when said data stream is ready to transmit:

sending a START symbol on said first data lane and said first three successive bytes of data from said stream on said second, said third, and said fourth data lanes

during one said time sequence (fig. 2, SD sent on lane 101 & data b,c,d sent on lanes 102-104 during the same time cycle);

sending the remainder of said data stream by sending each subsequent unsent data on said first, said second, said third, and said fourth data lanes during successive said time sequence until there is insufficient data to send on all four said data lanes, said insufficient data being final data (fig. 2, sending data to each lane until (final) data e & f);

where there is no said final data to send, sending said END symbol on said first lane (fig. 2; payload info may be shorter than specify drawing where last segment (final data) is 'e' and the ED (END symbol) is included in path/lane 101, and said preamble on said second, said third, and said fourth lanes (fig. 2, SYN's are sent on paths 102-104 afterwards);

when said final data comprises one said data lane, sending said final data on said first lane, an END symbol on said second lane, and said preamble on said third and fourth lanes (fig. 2, last segments may span entire paths/lane 101 where ED (END symbol) is sent on lane 102 and SYN (preambles are sent on lanes 103-104 thereafter);

when said final data comprises two said data lanes, sending said final data on said first lane, an END symbol on said second lane, and said preamble on said third and said fourth lanes (fig. 2, last segments (final data) 'e' and 'f' on lanes 101 & 102, ED on lane 102, and SYN (preamble) are also sent on paths/lanes 103 & 104);

when said final data comprises three said data lanes, sending said final data on said first, said second, and said third lane, and an end symbol on said fourth lane (fig. 2,

last segments may span entire paths/lanes 101-103 where ED (END symbol) is sent on lane 104);

Shimizu fails to describe that the 4-byte FCS being distributed as bytes across said n data lanes.

Finney describes transmission across multiple serial links where each link accepts selected one of the distributed bytes of the incoming signals (fig. 3 & col. 4, lines 33-41).

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to describe each link of the multiple link transmission accepts a distributed byte for transmission as in Finney for the parallel transmission paths of Shimizu.

The motivation for combining the teachings is that it achieves a high bandwidth data transmission with great skew tolerance and employing lower clocking frequencies with less circuitry dissipating lower power (Finney, col. 2, lines 19-23).

Shimizu and Finney combined fail to describe; transmitting the frames successively and simultaneously (without interruption by SYN pulse).

Merchant describes a parallel transmission scheme of: transmitting the frames successively and simultaneously (fig. 3A, after preamble, data is transmitted successively and simultaneously without interruption by any SYN pulses).

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to specify that data is transmitted successively and

simultaneously without interruption as in Merchant for the combined transmission method of Shimizu and Finney.

The motivation for combining the teachings is that it ensures a reliable reception of each of the data segments without the necessity of error checking on individual links (Merchant, col. 2, lines 61-64).

Regarding claim 92, Shimizu and Finney combined further describes: the data lane is 8 bits wide (Finney, fig. 2 & col. 4, lines 15-20, 8-bit wide lane input to 8B/10B encoder).

Regarding claim 93, Shimizu and Finney combined describe that each MII path use is 8-bits wide ((fig. 2 & col. 4, lines 15-20, 8-bit wide lane input to 8B/10B encoder) and transmission using a clock with lower frequencies (Finney, fig. 6 & col. 2, lines 20-21), but not specifically at 312.5Mhz rate.

However, it is generally considered to be within the ordinary skill in the art to adjust, vary, select or optimize the transmission clock rate or frequency of any system absent a showing of criticality in a particular recited value. The burden of showing criticality is on the Appellant. In re Mason, 87 F.2d 370, 32 USPQ 242 (CCPA 1937); Marconi Wireless Telegraph Co. v. U.S., 320 U.S. 1, 57 USPQ 471 (1943); In re Schneider, 148 F.2d 108, 65 USPQ 129 (CCPA 1945); In re Aller, 220 F.2d454, 105 USPQ 233 (CCPA 1955); In re Saether, 492 F.2d 849, 181 USPQ 36 (CCPA 1974); In re Antonie, 559 F.2d 618, 195 USPQ 6 (CCPA 1977); In re Boesch, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time

of invention by applicant to modify the transmission clock rate to 312.5Mhz for the claim limitation since it is generally considered to be within the ordinary skill in the art to adjust, vary select or optimize the transmission clock rate/frequencies.

Claims 94, 95, 96 and 98 have the same limitations as claims 85, 86, 87 and 88 respectively and therefore are rejected under the same rationale.

Regarding claim 99, Shimizu further suggests: each said data lane comprises 8 bits of data and one bit of clock (abstract & fig. 2, data in each channel is sent in bytes (8-bits) and the SYN marker may be sent in 1-bit).

6. **Claim 97** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimizu in view of Finney and Merchant as applied to claim 96 above, and further in view of Widmer (US 6,496,540).

Shimizu, Finney and Merchant combined suggest that each said data lane includes an encoder (Finney, col. 2, lines 37-44, transmitting means have encoding since receiving means have decoding) and encoding for transmission using a clock with lower frequencies (Finney fig. 6 & col. 2, lines 20-21), but not specifically at 312.5Mhz rate.

However, it is generally considered to be within the ordinary skill in the art to adjust, vary, select or optimize the transmission clock rate or frequency of any system absent a showing of criticality in a particular recited value. The burden of showing criticality is on the Appellant. In re Mason, 87 F.2d 370, 32 USPQ 242 (CCPA 1937); Marconi Wireless Telegraph Co. v. U.S., 320 U.S. 1, 57 USPQ 471 (1943); In re

Schneider, 148 F.2d 108, 65 USPQ 129 (CCPA 1945); In re Aller, 220 F.2d 454, 105 USPQ 233 (CCPA 1955); In re Saether, 492 F.2d 849, 181 USPQ 36 (CCPA 1974); In re Antonie, 559 F.2d 618, 195 USPQ 6 (CCPA 1977); In re Boesch, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to modify the transmission clock rate to 312.5Mhz for the claim limitation since it is generally considered to be within the ordinary skill in the art to adjust, vary select or optimize the transmission clock rate/frequencies.

Finney also fails to describe: each serializer is clocked at 10 times said encoder clock rate.

Widmer describes as a prior art it is conventional to serialize at a rate of 10 times the parallel encoded rate for transmission (col. 1, lines 34-37 & 41).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to specify that the serializer uses a rate of 10 times of said encoder clock rate in the transmitter as in Widmer for the transmitter of Finney.

The motivation for combining the teachings is that it allows a higher transmission rate (Widmer, col. 1, lines 31-32).

7. **Claims 100 & 101** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimizu in view of Finney and Merchant as applied to claim 93 above, and further in view of Chung (US 5,764,895).

Shimizu, Finney and Merchant combined fail to describe: data from each data lane is transmitted least/most significant bit (MSB/LSB) first and most/least significant bit last.

Chung describes as a prior art that in parallel transmissions, data from each data lane can be transmitted in big-endian or little-endian ordering (MSB/LSB transmission) (col. 2, lines 8-11).

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to specify a MSB/LSB transmission ordering as in Chung for the parallel transmission in Shimizu and Finney.

The motivation for combining the teachings is that it would allow flexibility/compatibility for interconnecting with the target of the network.

8. Claims 104-105 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Finney in view of Shimizu and Bleszynski.

Regarding claim 104, Finney exemplifies a receiver (fig. 6) for receiving streams of serial data into a variable length data payload (col. 5, lines 16-19, receiving variable length frames), said receiver comprising:

deserializers each coupled to a respective serial stream (fig. 6, deserializers 602,604,606) , each said deserializer converting said stream of serial data into 10 bits of encoded data (fig. 8, output is 10 bits for the 10B/8B decoder), accompanied by a clock for each said serial stream (fig. 8 & col. 5, lines 38-40, clock used by each deserializer);

decoders, each said decoder coupled to a respective said deserializer output each said decoder converting each said 10 bits of encoded data into 8 bits of decoded data (fig. 6, the connecting 10B/8B decoders 622,624,626), thereby producing 8 bits of encoded data accompanied by a clock (fig. 8 & col. 5, lines 47-54, clock used to shift the output 8 bits from the 10B/8B decoder into registers 632,634,636);

an elasticity buffer coupled to each said 8 bit decoder data and decoder clock (fig. 6, registers 632,634,636,642,644,646), and combining said 32 bits of data over successive intervals to produce said variable length packet;

a packet generator coupled to said elasticity buffer output data (fig. 7, MUX 152).

Although Finney exemplified receiving and combining 24 bits/3-bytes over three data lanes, his invention is generally described for (other) multiple serial transmissions (col. 2, lines 24-26).

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to understand and apply his concept to specifically be used for 4-bytes over four data lanes with 4 deserializers and 4 decoders.

Finney describe that each path and its buffer use a clock with lower frequencies (Finney, fig. 6 & col. 2, lines 20-21), but not at 312.5Mhz rate.

However, it is generally considered to be within the ordinary skill in the art to adjust, vary, select or optimize the transmission clock rate or frequency of any system absent a showing of criticality in a particular recited value. The burden of showing criticality is on the Appellant. In re Mason, 87 F.2d 370, 32 USPQ 242 (CCPA 1937); Marconi Wireless Telegraph Co. v. U.S., 320 U.S. 1, 57 USPQ 471 (1943); In re

Schneider, 148 F.2d 108, 65 USPQ 129 (CCPA 1945); In re Aller, 220 F.2d 454, 105 USPQ 233 (CCPA 1955); In re Saether, 492 F.2d 849, 181 USPQ 36 (CCPA 1974); In re Antonie, 559 F.2d 618, 195 USPQ 6 (CCPA 1977); In re Boesch, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to modify the transmission clock rate to 312.5Mhz for the claim limitation since it is generally considered to be within the ordinary skill in the art to adjust, vary select or optimize the transmission clock rate/frequencies.

Finney fails to describe:

responsive to a START delimiter on a particular one of said four streams and an END delimiter on any said stream, where said END delimiter is accompanied by preamble symbols on at least one other stream, receiving said packet including a header, a payload and a FCS by canonically concatenating data received from a first stream, second stream, third stream and fourth stream into said stream of 32 bits of data.

Shimizu describes:

responsive to a START delimiter on a particular one of said four streams and an END delimiter on any said stream, where said END delimiter is accompanied by preamble symbols on at least one other stream, receiving said packet including a header, a payload and a FCS by canonically concatenating data received from a first stream, second stream, third stream and fourth stream into said stream of 32 bits of data (fig. 2, transmitted data will comprises SD (START delimiter) and ED (END

delimiter), SYN's (preambles), and data in known Ethernet frames comprising header, payload and FCS (see fig. 1 prior art of instant application), the data receiving is an unique, equivalent (i.e. canonical) form).

Finney and Shimizu combined fail to describe:

said packet payload including an encapsulated header and an encapsulated payload;

packet header describes said packet payload type but does not include information derived from either said encapsulated header or said encapsulated payload of said packet payload.

Bleszynski describes packet encapsulations comprising: payload data comprises an encapsulated packet having an encapsulated header and encapsulated data, packet header describes said packet payload type but does not include information derived from said encapsulated header (col. 5, lines 55-65, multi-protocol support engine 10 adds a generic (does not include information from said encapsulated header) packet header identifying type on top of each packet as shown in fig. 3).

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to describe the payload data encapsulating a packet without information derived from said encapsulated header as in Bleszynski for the described payload in Merchant.

The motivation for combining the teachings is that by providing a generic packet header for all protocol types, it improves the multi-protocol processing efficiency (Bleszynski, col. 2, lines 48-49).

Regarding claim 105, Finney further describes that the decoder is an 8B/10B decoder (fig. 6, 622,624,626).

9. Claims 106-108 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Finney in view of Shimizu and Bleszynski as applied to claim 104 above, and further in view of Shimizu.

Regarding claim 106, Finney fails to describe:

said variable length payload is formed using data received on the other three said decoders following a START symbol on one said decoder, thereafter using data from all four said decoders until receipt of an END symbol on any said decoder.

Shimizu describes:

said variable length payload is formed using data received on the other three said decoders following a START symbol on one said decoder, thereafter using data from all four said decoders until receipt of an END symbol on any said decoder (abstract & fig. 2, SD (START symbol) and ED (end symbol) at the decoders of the receiving means, col. 2, lines 41-45).

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to specify a START and an end symbol in receiving the variable length payload at one of the 4 receiver decoding paths as in Shimizu for the parallel transmission path of Finney.

The motivation for combining the teachings is that packets can be transmitted at a high rate over a long transmission distance using a transmission medium which is economical and easy to handle (Shimizu, col. 2, lines 47-50).

Regarding claim 107, Finney fails to describe:

said variable length payload is formed using data between a START symbol on one said decoder and an END symbol received on any said decoder.

Shimizu describes:

said variable length payload is formed using data between a START symbol on one said decoder and an END symbol received on any said decoder (abstract & fig. 2, SD (START symbol) and ED (end symbol) at the decoders of the receiving means, col. 2, lines 41-45).

Regarding claim 108, Finney further describes:

said elasticity buffer forms said variable length payload by concatenating data received from a first decoder, a second decoder, a third decoder, and a fourth decoder (fig. 6 and col. 5, lines 60-67, registers 642,644,646 (buffer) concatenates data output from decoders 622,624,626, see fig. 7: concatenated data in the word synch stage).

Finney fails to describe a START symbol is received on a first decoder and said variable length packet is formed from concatenating said data in sequence from said second decoder, said third decoder, said fourth decoder, and said first decoder, repeating until terminated by the receipt of an END symbol on any decoder.

Shimizu describes: a START symbol is received on a first decoder and said variable length packet is formed from concatenating said data in sequence from said

second decoder, said third decoder, said fourth decoder, and said first decoder, repeating until terminated by the receipt of an END symbol on any decoder (abstract & fig. 2, SD (START symbol) and ED (end symbol) at the decoders of the receiving means, col. 2, lines 41-45).

10. **Claims 109-111** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Finney in view of Shimizu and Bleszynski as applied to claim 104 above, and further in view of Kimmitt.

Regarding claim 109-110, Finney fails to describe that each said serial stream of data is derived from a differential electrical signal or an optical signal.

Kimmitt describes that each said serial stream of data is derived from a differential electrical signal or an optical signal (col. 4, lines 22-24).

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to explicitly describe copper or fiber optics for transmission of Shimizu and Finney.

The motivation for combining the teachings is that allows for a reliable telecommunications without employing wide parallel buses (Kimmitt, col. 2, lines 4-9).

Regarding claim 111, Finney describe using a positive edge (Finney, fig. 4, rising/positive edge of clock for pacing phases 1-3) and a negative edge (Finney, fig. 4, falling/negative edge of phase 1 for gating data to register), clocking at lower frequencies (Finney fig. 6 & col. 2, lines 20-21), but fails to describe using a clock rate of 156.25Mhz.

Kimmitt describes using a clock rate of 156.25Mhz for transmission (col. 7, lines 59-65).

Independent claim 112 is a process claim which closely describes all features recited in the receiver claims 104 and 106 combined and thus rejected using the same rationale.

Claims 113, 117, 118 and 119 recites the same features as claims 105, 111, 109 and 110 respectively and therefore are rejected using the same rationale.

Claim 114 recites the same claim features embedded in claim 104 and is thus rejected under the same rationale.

Claim 115 recites the same claim features in claim 102 and is thus additionally rejected under the same rationale.

Claim 116 recites the same claim features in claim 95 and is thus additionally rejected under the same rationale.

Allowable Subject Matter

11. Claim 102 allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention is directed to parallel transmitter. Claim 102 identifies the uniquely additional distinct features:

"said encoder generating an alternating pattern of an even preamble symbol and an odd preamble symbol to indicate across said four data lanes when said START delimiter, said sequential data, and said END delimiter are not being transmitted."

The closest prior art, Finney in view of Widmer (US 6,496,540) disclose conventional transmission of byte over parallel data lanes, in combination, fail to render the above features obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

12. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 73-101 and 104-119 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

In addition, Applicant's arguments filed 9/21/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

From p. 18 to p. 20 para. 1, the applicants argue that Merchant's CRC check is computed separately for each segment. The examiner has changed the grounds of rejection, using Shimizu instead.

From p. 20 para. 2 to p. 22 para. 2, the applicants argue that the combination of Merchant and Allen fail to describe encapsulation of multiple heterogeneous types of

packets, each with their own separate and distinct header types from the overall GX header. The examiner has used a new reference for new grounds of rejection.

On p. 22 para. 3, the applicants mentioned although not argued "said interface sequentially and contiguously transmitting..." The examiner asserts here and below that the Merchant reference reads on such limitations because the data are indeed transmitted interleaved and sequentially (fig. 3A).

On p. 22 last para., the applicants argue that the structure of Shimizu is a time division multiplexer, unlike the instant application. The examiner understands that this feature is not in the claims, and that the applicants are reading into the specification for the claimed requirements.

The applicants also argue through the next page (p. 23) about motivational differences between such reference and that of the instant application. Such argument is deemed irrelevant to the claimed language as well.

On p. 23 from para. 1 on, the applicants argue that it is physically impossible to described the boldfaced features. The examiner believes that the combination of references, as elaborated in the Office Action above, do suggest such features. The applicants are advised not to digress in a piecemeal analysis manner.

On p. 24, from para. 2 on, the applicants re-argues regarding the lack of sequential ordering, which has been responded above.

On p. 25 para. 2, the applicants re-argue regarding the motivation for combining Shimizu reference. The examiner noted that a proper motivation has been provided.

On p. 26 para. 1, the applicants argue that the references fail to describe "not sending said synchronization symbol again until all after all said variable length payload is transmitted." The examiner has added the Merchant reference in fulfilling this claim feature.

On p. 26 from para. 4 to p. 27 para. 1, the applicants re-argues regarding the Allen reference, which as been replaced with the new Bleszynski reference.

On p. 27 para. 2, the applicants argue regarding claims 76, 78, 80, 82-83 & 86-89 using claims 77, 79, 81 and 83, which are not their respective parent claims. Furthermore, such argued claims describe assorted schemes in sending FCS, which is not about end symbols in relation to a preamble as argued.

From p. 28, para. 4 to p. 29, the applicants first recites the claim limitations and then argue that "Shimizu, on the contrary, would simultaneously transmit 'a1 through a8' on lane 101, 'b1 through b8' on lane 102 ." versus interleaving: "applicant's claim 75 simultaneously transmits 'a1 a5 b1' on the first lane, 'a2 a6 b2' on a second lane, 'a3 a7 b3' on a third lane, and 'a4 a8 b6' on a fourth lane". The examiner respectively disagrees.

The examiner viewed a, b, c, d, e and f each as a segment unit of transmission (see Shimizu, fig. 2), and has equated such a, b, c and d to a1, a2, a3 as argued above.

On p. 30, para. 1, the applicants argue that Shimizu does not operate where "the distribution of final data across the data lanes such that the first lane would carry e1, second lane e2, third lane e3 and END frame on the fourth lane." The examiner respectfully disagrees.

In reference to fig. 2, the examiner understands that if final data 'f' segment is large, say comprising 'e' and 'f', that it spans multiple lanes.

On p. 30 last para., the applicant argue that "Shimizu teaches the transmission of ED at time intervals which are distinct from the transmission of SYN." This argument, particularly "distinct from transmission" is not what is recited in the claim limitations (quoted below):

"when there is no said final data to send, sending said END symbol on said first lane, and said preamble on said second, said third, and said fourth lanes;".

The examiner understands that fig. 2 of Shimizu indeed has ED (END) symbol, and other lanes have SYN (preambles) as well.

On p. 30 last para and p. 31 first para., the applicant also argues that Shimizu's transmission is interrupted by the require SYN pulse. The examiner has added the Merchant reference which has no interruption of data transmission after the preamble transmission.

On p. 31 first para., the applicants argue that Shimizu does not teach any of the final data combination of ED and SYN. The examiner believes that Shimizu does suggest final data 'f', ED delimiter, as well as SYN (see fig. 2).

The applicant also argue that "the ordering of segments is completely different than that of claim 91, as described earlier"; this has been addressed above.

On p. 35 last para. and on p. 37 para. 2-3, the applicants' arguments regarding claims 104 and 112 are irrelevant as the new Bleszynski reference replaces the Allen reference.

On p. 36 second para. the applicants similarly argues regarding the motivation of Finney and Shimizu for claim 104 which is irrelevant as similarly responded above. The examiner has provided a proper motivation.

On p. 37 para. 1, the applicants argue that Shimizu fails to describe "the END symbol accompanied by packet data in one lane and preamble in another." The examiner respectfully disagrees.

The examiner understands that the ED delimiter is accompanied by 'f' packet data in lane 2 and a SYN (preamble) exist in another lane (see fig. 2).

The applicants also argue that Shimizu does not receive the transmitted data sequentially on four data lanes at a time to form a packet. The examiner respectfully disagrees.

The examiner understands that in Shimizu, the data transmitted to receiver on a sequential basis, similarly to the response to sequential argument above for the Merchant reference.

Conclusion

13. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to WARNER WONG whose telephone number is (571) 272-8197. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30AM - 3:00PM, M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chi Pham can be reached on (571) 272-3179. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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